



Printed in the U.S.A. for free distribution. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. Produced in part with accommodations tax funds. Interior and photos by Gary Swann, John Beckwith and Bob Manning.

1105 Main Street | Deer Lodge, MT 59722
800.879.1159 | SOUTHWESTMT.COM



Practice common courtesy in contact with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and nonbirders alike.

Keep habitat disturbance to a minimum. Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas and important feeding sites. Stay on roads, trails and paths where they exist, and please respect private property.

Please observe and enjoy birds from a distance. Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording or filming.

Turns out, humans aren't the only species drawn to make their annual spring and autumn migrations through this region. And year-round, the diversity of resident species and viewing opportunities is simply staggering. Of the 428 bird species recorded in Montana, 316 are found in Southwest Montana.

Whether you consider yourself a dedicated lister or a beginning birdwatcher, this region will reward the studied gaze and sharp ear with plenty of ticks on a birding checklist. This region will reward the

located between Yellowstone and Glacier national parks, Southwest Montana offers stunning landscapes and adventures. Among breathtaking vistas and valleys, you'll find well-preserved ghost towns, rockhounding

discoveries, endless hiking and biking trails, some of North America's finest trout fishing and welcoming towns. So set your camera to stun, slow your pace, and fully experience this miraculous place. Call 800.879.1159 to request a comprehensive vacation planner.

Southwest Montana is just one reason to come to



You'll also experience moments of profound quiet. In these moments, you'll get a deeper sense why humans, too, find this a pretty great place to nest.

soaring above wide open valleys. streams, the piercing screech of red-tailed hawks

Here you'll find one of the largest populations of trumpeter swans anywhere. You'll hear the echoing cry of loons as the morning mist burns off Ennis

with the whisper of leaves along quiet mountain

the life list.

alive with birds.

Experience a Big Sky



The following is a list of birds you'll have a good chance to encounter. The numbers in parentheses refer to the bird-watching area marked on the map and described on the reverse side of this foldout, where you are especially likely to see that particular species.

Ducks, Geese & Swans (Anseriformes)

- American Wigeon (1-8, 10)
- Barrow's Goldeneye (2, 10)
- Blue-winged Teal (2-8, 10)
- Bufflehead (2, 4, 6, 7, 10)
- Canada Goose (2-8, 10, 12)
- Canvasback (1-8, 10)
- Common Goldeneye (1-8, 10, 12)
- Common Merganser (2-8, 10, 12)
- Gadwall (1-8, 10)
- Greater White-fronted Goose (10)
- Hooded Merganser (2, 4, 6, 8, 10)
- Lesser Scaup (1-8, 10)
- Long-tailed Duck (4, 10)
- Mallard Duck (1-8, 10, 12)
- Northern Pintail (2-8, 10)
- Northern Shoveler (1-8, 10)
- Red-breasted Merganser (4, 6, 10)
- Redhead (2-8, 10)
- Ring-necked Duck (2-8, 10)
- Ross's Goose (2, 10)
- Rudy Duck (2, 4, 6, 7, 10)
- Snow Goose (2, 4, 10)
- Surf Scoter (fall) (4, 5, 6, 10)
- Trumpeter Swan (2-8, 10)
- Tundra Swan (2-8, 10)
- White-winged Scoter (fall) (4, 5, 6, 10)
- Wood Duck (1-8, 10)

Loons (Gaviiformes)

- Common Loon (2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10)
- Pacific Loon (4, 6, 10)

Grebes (Podicipediformes)

- Eared Grebe (2, 4, 10)
- Horned Grebe (3, 10)
- Pied-billed Grebe (2, 4, 6, 7, 10)
- Red-necked Grebe (2, 4, 5, 10)
- Western Grebe (2, 6, 7, 10)

Cormorants (Suliformes)

- Double-crested Cormorant (7, 10, 12)

Pelicans & Wading Birds (Pelecaniiformes)

- American White Pelican (4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12)
- Black-crowned Night-Heron (7, 8, 10)
- Great Blue Heron (1-10)
- White-faced Ibis (7, 8, 10)

Hawks, Ospreys, Eagles & Allies (Accipitriformes)

- Bald Eagle (1-8, 10, 12)
- Cooper's Hawk (1-10, 12)
- Ferruginous Hawk (6, 7, 8)
- Golden Eagle (1-10, 12)
- Northern Goshawk (5, 7, 9, 10)
- Northern Harrier (1, 2, 4, 10)
- Osprey (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12)
- Red-tailed Hawk (1-10, 12)
- Rough-legged Hawk (winter) (1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 10)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk (1-10, 12)
- Swainson's Hawk (7, 8, 9, 10)
- Turkey Vulture (1-12)

Pigeons & Doves (Columbiformes)

- Eurasian Collared-Dove (1-12)
- Mourning Dove (1-12)
- Rock Pigeon (1-12)

Owls (Strigiformes)

- Great Gray Owl (5, 9)
- Great Horned Owl (1-12)
- Long-eared Owl (9)

Cranes & Rails (Gruiformes)

- American Coot (2, 4-8, 10)
- Sandhill Crane (1, 2, 4, 7-10)
- Sora (1, 2, 8, 10)
- Virginia Rail (1, 2, 8, 10)

Plovers, Sandpipers & allies (Charadriiformes)

- American Avocet (4, 6-8, 10, 12)
- American Golden Plover (fall migration) (1, 10)
- Baird's Sandpiper (4, 6-8, 10)
- Black-bellied Plover (fall migration) (1, 10)
- Black-necked Stilt (4, 6-8, 10, 12)
- Black Tern (2, 7)
- Bonaparte's Gull (2, 4, 10)
- California Gull (4-6, 8, 10)
- Caspian Tern (4, 6, 7, 10)
- Forster's Tern (4, 6, 10)
- Franklin's Gull (4, 6-8, 10)
- Greater Yellowlegs (1-10)
- Herring Gull (4, 6, 10)
- Killdeer (1-10, 12)
- Least Sandpiper (4, 6-8, 10)
- Lesser Yellowlegs (1-10)
- Long-billed Curlew (1, 2, 4, 6-10)
- Long-billed Dowitcher (4, 6-8, 10)
- Marbled Godwit (4, 8, 10)
- Pectoral Sandpiper (4, 6-8, 10)
- Ring-necked Gull (4-6, 8, 10)
- Sabine's Gull (10)
- Sanderling (4, 6-8, 10)
- Semipalmated Plover (4, 6-8, 10)
- Semipalmated Sandpiper (4, 6-8, 10)
- Solitary Sandpiper (1-10)
- Spotted Sandpiper (1, 6-10, 12)
- Upland Sandpiper (3)
- Willet (1-10)
- Wilson's Phalarope (4, 6-8, 10)
- Wilson's Snipe (1, 4, 6-8, 10)

Woodpeckers (Piciformes)

- American Three-toed Woodpecker (5, 9)
- Black-backed Woodpecker (3, 5, 9)
- Downy Woodpecker (1-12)
- Hairy Woodpecker (3, 10, 11)
- Lewis's Woodpecker (3, 10, 11)
- Northern Flicker (1-12)
- Pileated Woodpecker (3, 5, 11)
- Red-naped Sapsucker (1-3, 7, 10, 11)
- Williamson's Sapsucker (2, 5)

Falcons (Falconiformes)

- American Kestrel (1-10, 12)
- Gyrfalcon (winter) (4, 10)
- Merlin (4)
- Peregrine Falcon (4, 7, 8, 10, 12)
- Prairie Falcon (2, 7, 8); winter (10)

Perching Birds (Passeriformes)

- American Crow (1, 2, 4, 10, 11)
- American Dipper (1-11)
- American Goldfinch (1, 2, 4-8, 11, 12)
- American Pipit (10)
- American Redstart (2)
- American Robin (1-12)
- American Tree Sparrow (winter) (1, 9, 10)
- Baird's Sparrow (3)
- Bank Swallow (1-12)
- Barn Swallow (1-12)
- Black Rosy-Finch (9)
- Black-billed Magpie (1-12)
- Black-capped Chickadee (1-11)
- Black-headed Grosbeak (1-11)
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (12)
- Blue Jay (4, 5)
- Bobolink (1, 2, 4)
- Bohemian Waxwing (winter) (1-11)
- Brewer's Blackbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11)
- Brewer's Sparrow (2, 6, 10)
- Brown Creeper (3, 4, 5, 9)
- Brown-headed Cowbird (1-11)
- Bullock's Oriole (1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12)
- Canyon Wren (4, 12)
- Cassin's Finch (1, 4, 12)
- Cassin's Vireo (12)
- Cedar Waxwing (1-12)
- Chipping Sparrow (1-12)
- Clark's Nutcracker (5, 7, 9, 11, 12)
- Clay-colored Sparrow (2, 10)
- Cliff Swallow (1-12)
- Common Grackle (1, 6, 10)
- Common Raven (1-12)
- Common Redpoll (winter) (5, 9, 10)
- Common Yellowthroat (1-10)
- Cordilleran (Western) Flycatcher (3, 5, 6, 12)
- Dark-eyed Junco (1-11)
- Dusky Flycatcher (3-5, 7, 12)
- Eastern Kingbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12)
- Evening Grosbeak (1, 2, 4, 5, 6-11)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet (1-11)
- Gray Catbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 10-12)
- Gray Flycatcher (8)
- Gray Jay (5, 11)
- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (5, 9)
- Green-tailed Towhee (12)
- Hammond's Flycatcher (3, 5, 9)
- Harris's Sparrow (winter) (10)
- Hermit Thrush (5, 9, 10, 12)
- Horned Lark (1, 2, 4, 8, 10)
- House Wren (1-8, 10, 11)
- Lark Sparrow (3, 10, 12)
- Least Flycatcher (1-6, 10)
- Lapland Longspur (winter) (10)
- Lazuli Bunting (3, 6, 10, 12)
- Lincoln's Sparrow (5, 7, 9)
- Loggerhead Shrike (8)
- MacGillivray's Warbler (3, 4, 7, 9, 10)
- Marsh Wren (2, 6, 7, 8, 10)
- McCown's Longspur (6, 8)
- Mountain Bluebird (1-4, 7, 8, 10-12)
- Mountain Chickadee (5, 7, 9, 11, 12)
- Northern Pygmy-Owl (3, 4, 5, 9)
- Northern Saw-whet Owl (12)
- Western Screech-Owl (9, 10)

Nightjars (Caprimulgiformes)

- Common Nighthawk (1-12)
- Common Poorwill (3, 4, 12)

Swifts & Hummingbirds (Apodiformes)

- Black-chinned Hummingbird (11)
- Calliope Hummingbird (1-11)
- Rufous Hummingbird (1-11, 12)
- White-throated Swift (3, 4, 12)

Kingfishers (Coraciiformes)

- Belted Kingfisher (1-12)

Woodpeckers (Piciformes)

- American Three-toed Woodpecker (5, 9)
- Black-backed Woodpecker (3, 5, 9)
- Downy Woodpecker (1-12)
- Hairy Woodpecker (3, 10, 11)
- Lewis's Woodpecker (3, 10, 11)
- Northern Flicker (1-12)
- Pileated Woodpecker (3, 5, 11)
- Red-naped Sapsucker (1-3, 7, 10, 11)
- Williamson's Sapsucker (2, 5)

Falcons (Falconiformes)

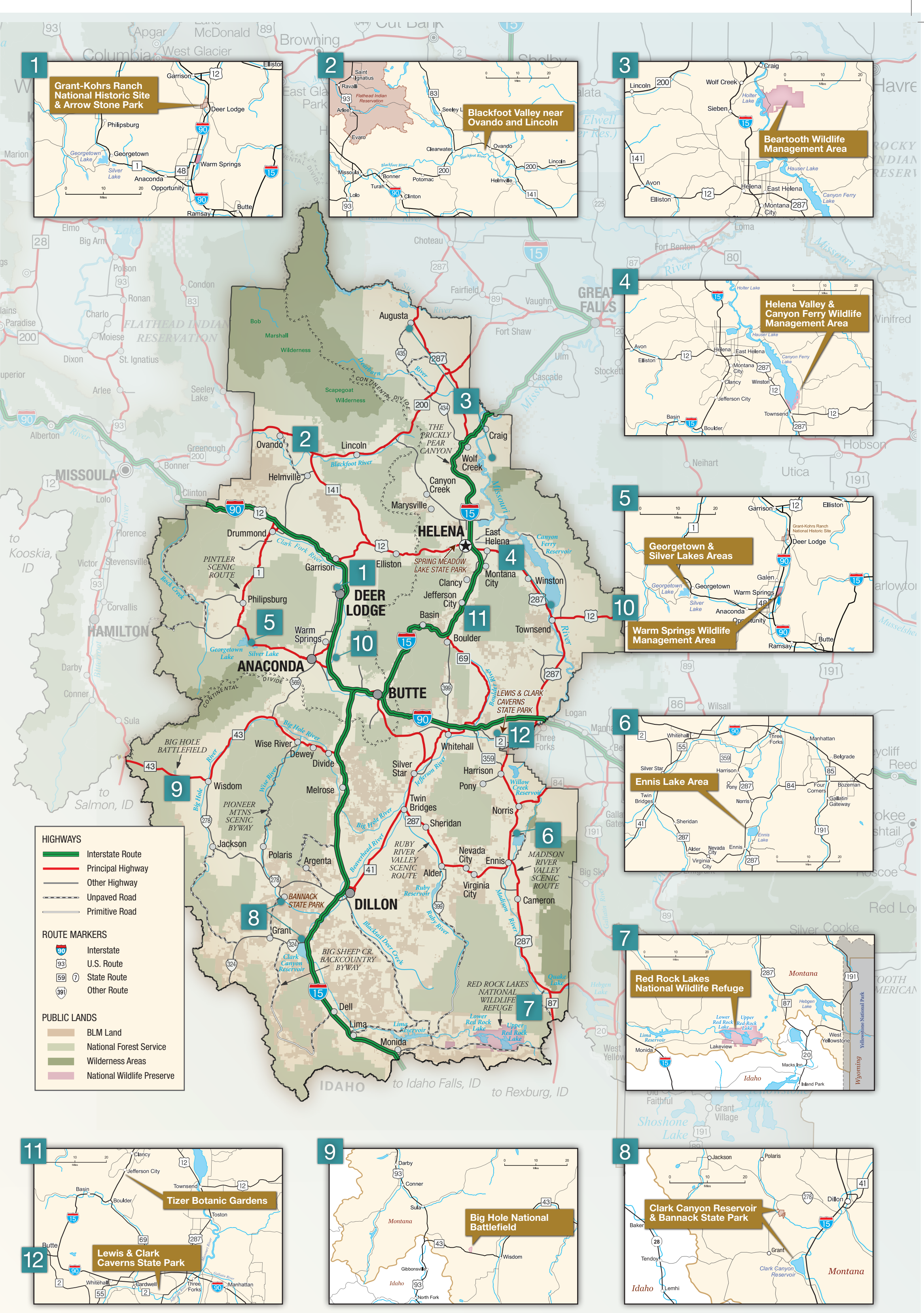
- American Kestrel (1-10, 12)
- Gyrfalcon (winter) (4, 10)
- Merlin (4)
- Peregrine Falcon (4, 7, 8, 10, 12)
- Prairie Falcon (2, 7, 8); winter (10)

Perching Birds (Passeriformes)

- American Crow (1, 2, 4, 10, 11)
- American Dipper (1-11)
- American Goldfinch (1, 2, 4-8, 11, 12)
- American Pipit (10)
- American Redstart (2)
- American Robin (1-12)
- American Tree Sparrow (winter) (1, 9, 10)
- Baird's Sparrow (3)
- Bank Swallow (1-12)
- Barn Swallow (1-12)
- Black Rosy-Finch (9)
- Black-billed Magpie (1-12)
- Black-capped Chickadee (1-11)
- Black-headed Grosbeak (1-11)
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (12)
- Blue Jay (4, 5)
- Bobolink (1, 2, 4)
- Bohemian Waxwing (winter) (1-11)
- Brewer's Blackbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11)
- Brewer's Sparrow (2, 6, 10)
- Brown Creeper (3, 4, 5, 9)
- Brown-headed Cowbird (1-11)
- Bullock's Oriole (1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12)
- Canyon Wren (4, 12)
- Cassin's Finch (1, 4, 12)
- Cassin's Vireo (12)
- Cedar Waxwing (1-12)
- Chipping Sparrow (1-12)
- Clark's Nutcracker (5, 7, 9, 11, 12)
- Clay-colored Sparrow (2, 10)
- Cliff Swallow (1-12)
- Common Grackle (1, 6, 10)
- Common Raven (1-12)
- Common Redpoll (winter) (5, 9, 10)
- Common Yellowthroat (1-10)
- Cordilleran (Western) Flycatcher (3, 5, 6, 12)
- Dark-eyed Junco (1-11)
- Dusky Flycatcher (3-5, 7, 12)
- Eastern Kingbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12)
- Evening Grosbeak (1, 2, 4, 5, 6-11)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet (1-11)
- Gray Catbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 10-12)
- Gray Flycatcher (8)
- Gray Jay (5, 11)
- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (5, 9)
- Green-tailed Towhee (12)
- Hammond's Flycatcher (3, 5, 9)
- Harris's Sparrow (winter) (10)
- Hermit Thrush (5, 9, 10, 12)
- Horned Lark (1, 2, 4, 8, 10)
- House Wren (1-8, 10, 11)
- Lark Sparrow (3, 10, 12)
- Least Flycatcher (1-6, 10)
- Lapland Longspur (winter) (10)
- Lazuli Bunting (3, 6, 10, 12)
- Lincoln's Sparrow (5, 7, 9)
- Loggerhead Shrike (8)
- MacGillivray's Warbler (3, 4, 7, 9, 10)
- Marsh Wren (2, 6, 7, 8, 10)
- McCown's Longspur (6, 8)
- Mountain Bluebird (1-4, 7, 8, 10-12)
- Mountain Chickadee (5, 7, 9, 11, 12)
- Northern Pygmy-Owl (3, 4, 5, 9)
- Northern Saw-whet Owl (12)
- Western Screech-Owl (9, 10)

Black-capped Chickadee (1-11)

- Black-headed Grosbeak (1-11)
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (12)
- Blue Jay (4, 5)
- Bobolink (1, 2, 4)
- Bohemian Waxwing (winter) (1-11)
- Brewer's Blackbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11)
- Brewer's Sparrow (2, 6, 10)
- Brown Creeper (3, 4, 5, 9)
- Brown-headed Cowbird (1-11)
- Bullock's Oriole (1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12)
- Canyon Wren (4, 12)
- Cassin's Finch (1, 4, 12)
- Cassin's Vireo (12)
- Cedar Waxwing (1-12)
- Chipping Sparrow (1-12)
- Clark's Nutcracker (5, 7, 9, 11, 12)
- Clay-colored Sparrow (2, 10)
- Cliff Swallow (1-12)
- Common Grackle (1, 6, 10)
- Common Raven (1-12)
- Common Redpoll (winter) (5, 9, 10)
- Common Yellowthroat (1-10)
- Cordilleran (Western) Flycatcher (3, 5, 6, 12)
- Dark-eyed Junco (1-11)
- Dusky Flycatcher (3-5, 7, 12)
- Eastern Kingbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12)
- Evening Grosbeak (1, 2, 4, 5, 6-11)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet (1-11)
- Gray Catbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 10-12)
- Gray Flycatcher (8)
- Gray Jay (5, 11)
- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (5, 9)
- Green-tailed Towhee (12)
- Hammond's Flycatcher (3, 5, 9)
- Harris's Sparrow (winter) (10)
- Hermit Thrush (5, 9, 10, 12)
- Horned Lark (1, 2, 4, 8, 10)
- House Wren (1-8, 10, 11)
- Lark Sparrow (3, 10, 12)
- Least Flycatcher (1-6, 10)
- Lapland Longspur (winter) (10)
- Lazuli Bunting (3, 6, 10, 12)
- Lincoln's Sparrow (5, 7, 9)
- Loggerhead Shrike (8)
- MacGillivray's Warbler (3, 4, 7, 9, 10)
- Marsh Wren (2, 6, 7, 8, 10)
- McCown's Longspur (6, 8)
- Mountain Bluebird (1-4, 7, 8, 10-12)
- Mountain Chickadee (5, 7, 9, 11, 12)
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10)
- Northern Shrike (winter) (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10)
- Northern Waterthrush (1, 9, 10)
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (3, 5, 9)
- Orange-crowned Warbler (1-11)
- Pacific Wren (5, 9)
- Pine Grosbeak (5, 9)
- Pine Siskin (5, 9, 11, 12)
- Pinyon Jay (4)
- Pygmy Nuthatch (4)
- Red Crossbill (4, 5, 9, 11)
- Red-breasted Nuthatch (5, 9, 12)
- Red-eyed Vireo (1, 2, 4, 10)
- Red-winged Blackbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11)
- Rock Wren (8, 12)
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1-12)
- Sage Thrasher (8)
- Sagebrush Sparrow (8)
- Savannah Sparrow (1-10)
- Say's Phoebe (4, 9)
- Snow Bunting (winter) (8, 9, 10)
- Song Sparrow (1-10)
- Spotted Towhee (4, 12)
- Sprague's Pipit (3)
- Steller's Jay (5, 9, 11)
- Swainson's Thrush (3, 9)
- Townsend's Solitaire (3, 5, 9, 12)
- Tree Swallow (1-4, 6, 8, 10, 11)
- Veery (3, 9)
- Vesper Sparrow (1-10)
- Violet-green Swallow (5, 7, 9, 12)
- Warbling Vireo (2, 7, 11, 12)
- Western Bluebird (3, 10)
- Western Kingbird (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12)
- Western Meadowlark (1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10-12)
- Western Tanager (1-12)
- Western Wood-Pewee (1-12)
- White-breasted Nuthatch (4)
- White-crowned Sparrow (5, 7, 9)
- White-winged Crossbill (5, 9)
- Willow Flycatcher (1-12)
- Wilson's Warbler (7, 8, 9)
- Yellow Warbler (1-12)
- Yellow-breasted Chat (3, 12)
- Yellow-headed Blackbird (1, 2, 4, 8, 10)
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (1-12)



For detailed descriptions of the numbered areas, please see the reverse side of this foldout brochure. Some map elements copyrighted by and reprinted with the permission of the Montana Department of Transportation.



MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD



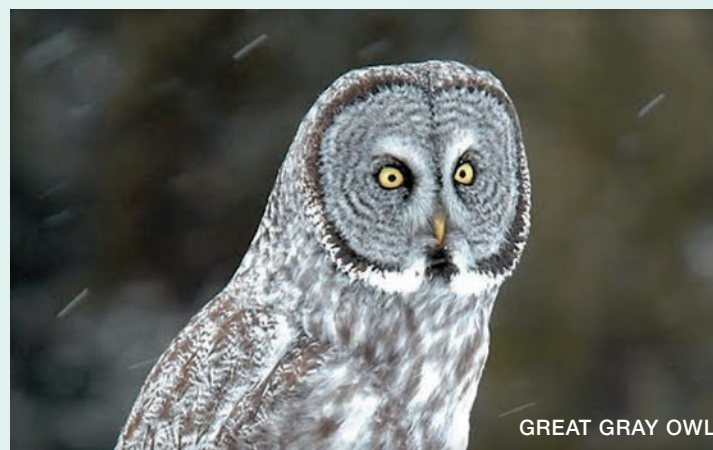
MARSH WREN



RED-TAILED HAWK



CEDAR WAXWING



GREAT GRAY OWL



WOOD DUCK

1 GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE / ARROWSTONE PARK

The 1,600-acre historic Grant-Kohrs Ranch is operated by the National Park Service and gives visitors a view of how life used to be here. With plenty of healthy riparian habitat populated by diverse bird species, you'll feel like you're experiencing Montana's wildlife of a century ago or more.

At the Grant-Kohrs Visitor Center you can purchase a field guide of the common birds for these sites that includes color photographs and a map of the ranch's habitats. You can walk plenty of quiet roads, trails and the abandoned Milwaukee Railroad right of way. There's also a series of well-established trails at Arrowstone.

HABITATS
Arrowstone Park is a riparian area along the Clark Fork River. There is also a series of small ponds and wet areas. Grant-Kohrs habitats include ponds and wet marshes, riparian / stream, short-grass prairie and hayfields.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS
April – October; November – March for winter species.

CONTACT
Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site
406.846.2070 • swmt.info/Birds-GrantKohrs

Powell County Chamber of Commerce
406.846.2094
swmt.info/Birds-DeerLodge

2 BLACKFOOT VALLEY NEAR OVANDO & LINCOLN

The Blackfoot Valley offers outstanding scenery as well as great wildlife viewing. Three core birding areas in the valley provide the best public access for birding. They include Browns Lake (mostly private shoreline but public roads and a fishing access site provide boat access and camping), Blackfoot Waterfowl Production Area and the Aunt Molly Wildlife Management Area Waterfowl Production Area complex.

HABITATS
This is a "prairie pothole" landscape surrounded by mountains. A mixture of intermountain grasslands, sagebrush-grasslands, agricultural fields, aspen stands and mixed-conifer ridge tops dominate the area. Cottonwood riparian habitats can be found along the Blackfoot River and its tributaries. Audubon Important Bird Area.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS
April – September; June is prime for nesting songbirds.

CONTACT
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
406.542.5500
swmt.info/Birds-BrownsLake (Brown's Lake)
swmt.info/Birds-AuntMolly (Aunt Molly)

southwestmt.com/communities/ovando.htm (Ovando)

3 BEARTOOTH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA / AUGUSTA

In this windswept landscape where the Great Plains crumble at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, wild things abound. All of Montana's big game species call this area home at various times of the year, as do upland game birds, raptors, songbirds, furbearers and small mammals.

The 31,798-acre WMA is open to the public from May 15 through November 30. Good birding can also be found by traveling along Highway 435 south of Augusta.

HABITATS
The area is dominated by intermountain grasslands and ponderosa pine forests, with some foothill and prairie pothole habitats. Remnant patches of Douglas fir and lodgepole pine forests can be found on north-facing slopes. Several creeks bisect the area, supporting riparian habitat.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS
May – September; June is prime for nesting songbirds.

CONTACT
Helena FWP
406.444.2535
swmt.info/Birds-Beartooth (Beartooth WMA)
southwestmt.com/communities/augusta.htm (Augusta)

4 HELENA VALLEY / CANYON FERRY WMA

In spring and autumn, the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area near Helena resonates with the melodious songs of diverse bird species as they pause along one of North America's major north-south migration routes. With its network of dikes and ponds, the area provides nesting birds plenty of protection — and offers birders amazing viewing opportunities. You will need a scope to maximize your experience.

That's just one of many great places to bird-watch in the Helena Valley. You'll find an even wider variety of species in the surrounding mountains as well as in the lake habitats of the region. A detailed guide to birding in the Helena Valley can be downloaded at www.lastchanceaudubon.org. There is also a bird list available for the Canyon Ferry WMA.

HABITATS
Dry grasslands, pine and fir forests, willow / cottonwood, riparian areas, lakes, prairie potholes, wetlands and cliffs. Audubon Important Bird Area.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS
May – July for breeding birds; August – November for shorebirds and migrants.

CONTACT
Townsend Chamber
406.266.4101
swmt.info/Birds-CanyonFerry (Canyon Ferry WMA)
swmt.info/Birds-LastChance (Last Chance Audubon Society)

5 GEORGETOWN & SILVER LAKE AREAS

Situated between the rugged Pintler Mountains to the south and the Flint Creek range to the north, these high-elevation lakes and the surrounding forests are popular destinations for anglers, hikers and birds of many feathers. Sprawling across 3,000 acres, Georgetown Lake would be plenty scenic without its many resident waterfowl, raptors and other birds that are drawn to the area's verdant forests, meadows and marshes. Nearby Silver Lake is smaller but offers great birding as well. The Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area, located south of Anaconda on Highway 569, is a good location for birding in high-elevation meadows and mountains.

HABITATS
Mountain lake wetlands, meadow, and stream riparian areas with alder and willow. Extensive coniferous forest of spruce, fir and lodgepole pine, mixed with scattered stands of aspen and open parks of mountain grasses.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS
May – September; October – November for scoters and loons; December – March for owls, jays and grosbeaks. Winter access can be limited.

CONTACT
Pintler Ranger District (Phillipsburg Office)
406.859.3211
Anaconda Chamber/VIC • 406.563.2400
southwestmt.com/communities/anaconda.htm

6 ENNIS LAKE AREA

Located just north of the quaint community of Ennis, this 3,692-acre lake beckons visitors with some of Southwest Montana's finest fishing, bird-watching, sunsets and simple solitude. For an exceptional birding loop head north on Jeffers Road from Ennis, then circle the lake on Ennis Lake Road.

Other good birding sites are found along the Madison River, north and south of the lake. There are numerous mountain streams flowing into the valley as well as extensive short-grass prairies south of Ennis. While you're in the area, you can marvel at another of the region's colorful species at the Ennis National Fish Hatchery, home to huge rainbow trout.

HABITATS
A willow / grass complex with sage and rabbit brush surrounds the lake. The foothills on the north end of the lake have a juniper / Douglas fir mixed forest. South of the lake are agricultural lands and short-grass prairie. The Madison River fishing access sites feature plenty of willow and cottonwood. Audubon Important Bird Area.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS
May – July for breeding birds; March – June and August – November for shorebirds and migrants.

CONTACT
Ennis Chamber and VIC
406.682.4388
swmt.info/Birds-Ennis



TRUMPETER SWAN



AMERICAN AVOCET



NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH



BLACK-NECKED STILT



RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD



WESTERN MEADOWLARK

7 RED ROCK LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

When this refuge was established in 1939, the trumpeter swan was all but extinct. Today, North America's heaviest bird is thriving; but there's still no better place to see these massive, majestic waterfowl than Red Rock Lakes, home to one of the largest populations in the lower 48 states — as well as a bevy of other birds.

The refuge headquarters, located at Lakeview, offers a small visitor center with wildlife displays and brochures. Upper Lake Campground is an excellent spot for birding due to its mix of lakeside habitats. Dirt roads are impassable after heavy rains and make sure to top off your gas tank before venturing this way.

HABITATS
Primarily open grassland and sagebrush with isolated stands of willows and aspens. Willow habitat is found along streams, lakeshores and marshes throughout the refuge. Audubon Important Bird Area.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS
June – July for breeding birds; August – September for shorebirds and migrants.

CONTACT
Red Rock Lakes NWR
406.276.3347
swmt.info/Birds-RedRock

8 CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR & BANNACK STATE PARK

When Lewis and Clark stopped here they dubbed the spot Camp Fortunate; and today, anyone who comes through the area must surely feel lucky to be alive. This sprawling reservoir teems with wildlife along its shores and in the surrounding foothills.

Nearby Bannack was Montana's first territorial capital, and now stands as one of the best-preserved ghost towns in the Rockies. Good birding can be found in the campgrounds and along the road and stream. Additional bird species can be found along the gravel road leading south from Bannack to Grant.

HABITATS
Riparian habitat, short-grass / sagebrush prairie and agricultural fields surround the reservoir. Late summer mud flats offer shorebird viewing at the west and south inlets to the reservoir. Bannack features riparian habitat along Grasshopper Creek and mature sagebrush habitat for several miles south to Grant.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS
April – October; November – March for winter species.

CONTACT
Bannack State Park
406.834.3413
swmt.info/Birds-Bannack

9 BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Today, few places seem more peaceful than the Big Hole Valley of Southwest Montana. But in August 1877, this was the site of a bloody battle between the Nez Perce and the U.S. Cavalry. The battlefield's visitor center offers historic displays and artifacts — and a bird checklist. You can also take a self-guided tour of the battlefield and visit the deeply moving tipi memorial along the Big Hole River. The site has limited roads, but excellent trails and an observation deck.

The battlefield is open year-round, with reduced hours in the winter. Highway 43 to the battlefield is also rich in bird species, especially raptors and owls seen early in the morning and in winter months. For those seeking a deeper understanding of the history of this site, a commemoration of the battle is held every August.

HABITATS
Subalpine-montane riparian shrub land, dry-mesic spruce fir forest and aspen / willow stands host a diverse bird community in a relatively small area.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS
May – September; November – March for winter species.

CONTACT
Big Hole National Battlefield
406.689.3151
swmt.info/Birds-BigHole

10 WARM SPRINGS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The largest area for waterfowl production in the upper Clark Fork River valley is actually a series of man-made ponds developed for treatment of surface water impacted by historic mining operations in Butte. The land is healthier now and the birds are everywhere, with 212 species documented in the WMA. All of the treatment ponds can be walked or bicycled via an extensive network of dike roads and trails. The Ducks Unlimited and Job Corps Ponds have roads that can be driven. Autumn brings some 28 species of shorebirds to the area, and winter is a great time to spot rough-legged hawks, prairie falcons and gyrfalcons.

HABITATS
Primarily wetlands consisting of cattail, rush, sedge and willow, as well as riparian areas of willow, alder, water birch, aspen and cottonwood.

BEST VIEWING SEASONS
April — October; spring and fall for waterfowl; late summer for shorebirds; June for songbirds.

CONTACT
Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area
406.693.7395

For a guide to the wildlife area, email ddziak@mt.gov.
swmt.info/Birds-WarmSprings (Warm Springs WMA)

11 TIZER BOTANIC GARDENS & ARBORETUM

Located 18 miles south of Helena on Tizer Lake Road, Tizer is one of only three privately owned internationally accredited arboreta in the United States. It is also a hummingbird research facility where you'll find Calliope, Rufous and Black-chinned varieties. With more than 400 different conifers and more than 1,000 varieties of clematis, roses and perennials, Tizer offers great habitat for a variety of other birds. The gardens sit at the entrance to the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area, accessing 600 square miles of public lands to bike, hike and enjoy additional bird and wildlife watching. Tizer is open to the public April through September (and, depending on weather, into October) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, including all holidays. Information: swmt.info/Birds-Tizer.

12 LEWIS & CLARK CAVERNS STATE PARK

Located midway between Butte and Bozeman, Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is best known for the spectacular limestone cave and the bats that reside within. But this rugged chunk of displaced Great Basin habitat is home to a diversity of bird life. From the towering limestone cliffs to the Jefferson River, the park encompasses six diverse habitat types and gives access to some of Southwest Montana's more unusual bird species. The park's 10 miles of hiking trails and visitor center are open year-round. Information: swmt.info/Birds-Caverns.

OTHER NOTABLE BIRDING AREAS

JEFFERSON VALLEY is a great place to spot sandhill cranes and other species of birds and waterfowl. Information: swmt.info/Birds-Boulder.

BEAVERHEAD SAGE-STEPPE AUDUBON IMPORTANT BIRD AREA, arrayed across a complex of high-elevation basins south of Dillon, is home to a thriving population of greater sage-grouse. Information: swmt.info/Birds-MtAudubon.

WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR (also called Harrison Lake) is one of a chain of lakes and reservoirs that serve as critical stopovers for waterfowl, shorebirds and other migrants traveling from the Rocky Mountain Front through the mountain valleys of west-central Montana. Audubon Important Bird Area. Information: swmt.info/Birds-MtAudubon.

MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK is located where the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers join to form the Missouri River. Camp where Lewis and Clark stayed on their journey westward, and marvel at the abundance of birds and other wildlife that call this area home. Audubon Important Bird Area. Information: swmt.info/Birds-MissouriHead.

- Picnic area
- Bicycling
- Visitor center
- Restroom
- Hiking
- Camping